



# Robert L. Merritt Junior High School

Volume 3

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## “Equitable Education for Every Student”

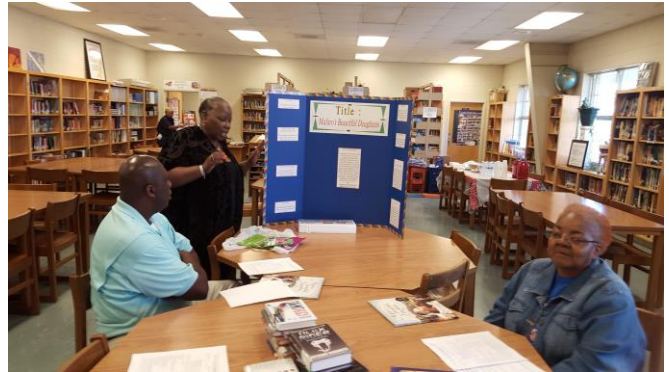
### Principal's Message

High standards and expectations for each student in regards to academic and responsible citizenship is the foundation of Robert L. Merritt Junior High School. We are working on STAR assessments in READING and MATH. We have finished i-Ready assessments and in the process of collecting DATA. As October approaches, we will begin our 9-weeks assessments we are encouraging students to review their notes and ask the teachers pertinent questions before 9-weeks assessments began! Parent involvement too is vital to your children's success and we are asking that you continue to play an active role in their education. I am honored to lead such an outstanding group of student's and eagerly anticipate a rewarding and successful year. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns, or input at any time.

### Parent Center Corner, Geraldine Ray

*"Sometimes doing your best is not good enough. Sometimes you must do what is required".*

**HEY!** I'm still here.....Come on out and visit our Parent Center at RLMJH. We ask that you visit our center located in the Media Center to receive parenting literature and check out learning tools for your child. Our goals are to make a difference in the lives of children and provide support to parents. I am still looking forward to seeing you at a workshop, grade level meetings, or in the parent center. You may reach me through e-mail at [gray@sunflower.k12.ms.us](mailto:gray@sunflower.k12.ms.us). My hours are: Tuesday, Thursday, and alternate Friday's from 7:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. **LET'S GET INVOLVED!!!!!!!!!!!!**



“There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them”. Joseph Brodsky

I am excited about our new addition to the library at RLMJH. We now have in our collection books in Spanish to accommodate our ELL students. (Student's do not speak English).

Remember, In addition to checking out books from the library, we are featuring the eBooks app for free. Thanks to your educator/librarian, you are able to download and use the Open eBooks app. With this app, you and your child can access a library of thousands of popular and award-winning eBooks. We hope the Open eBooks app helps you to further support and engage in your child's learning and foster their love of reading beyond the classroom. You can stop by the Library and request an e-code and pin number.

The week of September 26-30, 2016, will be our Accelerated Reader Kickoff. Each day the students will carry their books as a torch for AR.

- Monday, Sept, 26-Definition of AR
- Tuesday, Sept. 27-Students posted outside their English class, a copy of the book they read
- Wednesday, Sept. 28-Olympic Sock Day
- Thursday, Sept. 29-Students wore favorite medals
- Friday, Sept. 30-Olympic Spirit Day

Again, we are off to a great start at the RLMJH library! All of our students are destined to become Merritt scholars.

## Counselor's Corner, Ms. Hale

The character trait for October is "**Social Intelligence**". Social-emotional intelligence involves being able to recognize and manage feelings appropriately in ourselves and our relationships, as well as understanding what other people are feeling.

Supporting children in developing social-emotional intelligence will boost their chances of success at school, at work and in life. As parents, you can't choose their temperament, and you can't choose their personality, but you can shape it. Here's how:

- **The words have it.** Words set the culture. Your children won't always remember your words, but they'll remember how the words made them feel, and those will be the feelings with which they relate to the world. If they interpret that as judgmental or critical, they'll approach the world with a defensiveness and disconnection that will stifle them.
- **Make kindness a priority.** Though grades are very important, kindness is at the heart of social competence, relationships, and connection. Telling them to be kind is one thing, but letting them see you be kind to yourself, to them, to people you know, to strangers – *that's where the magic is.*
- **Teach them how to listen.** Listening is the key to being someone people love being with. It's magnetic. To teach this, reflect back what you hear when they talk to you, 'So what you're saying is ...' I understand that'. Create plenty of time where you can be with them fully while they're talking, so they can see how this listening thing it's done.
- **Relationship is critical.** Staying connected is the biggest and best way to ensure you have influence, so let the relationship take priority over pretty much everything. If they've come to you with a confession that has you scrambling for breath, take a moment, breathe, and focus on the behavior you want increase (their honesty, the connection, their willingness to talk to you), rather than the behavior you want to decrease
- **Model responsibility.** Responsibility isn't about blame. It's about response-ability – having the ability to respond. Taking responsibility for something means owning the ability to respond and to put things right. It's done from a position of strength, not shame.

Children have it in them to find the answers, but by directing too much, we can stifle their inherent capacity for connection and growth. Being a human is hard work and it takes time. One of the most loving things you can do as parents is to give your children the space and support to experiment and find the answers. Children aren't perfect, and neither are adults, and the more we are able to receive their mistakes with love and compassion, the more open they are to your influence, your guidance and your wisdom.

Tips taken from "19 Practical, Powerful Ways to Build Social-Emotional Intelligence in Kids & Teens" as posted in *Hey Sigmund* by Karen Young

## Upcoming Events at RLMJH

- ◆ 9/30- Story Board Workshop 12:30 -1:30 p.m.
- ◆ 10/6-Football Game (Merritt vs Humphreys) 5:30 p.m.
- ◆ 10/13- Football (Merritt vs Clarksdale) 5:30 p. m.
- ◆ 10/13-Breast Cancer Awareness Workshop 12:30-1:30 p.m.
- ◆ 10/13-Reports Issued
- ◆ 10/21-Time Keeping Strategies Workshop 11:30-12:30 p.m.
- ◆ 10/24-28-Red Ribbon/Bully Free Week
- ◆ 10/27-Computer Literacy Workshop 1:30-2:30 p.m.
- ◆ 10/27-Basketball (Merritt vs Drew) 5:30 p.m.